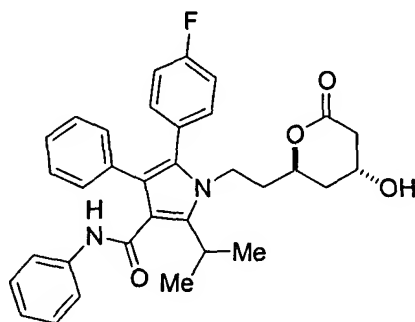


ABSTRACT

A method for preparing 5-(4-fluorophenyl)-1-[2-((2R,4R)-4-hydroxy-6-oxo-tetrahydro-pyran-2-yl)-ethyl]-2-isopropyl-4-phenyl-1*H*-pyrrole-3-carboxylic acid phenylamide (I), a key intermediate in the synthesis of atorvastatin calcium, is described.

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